

THE NUGGET



The Newsletter of the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club

July 2018

Volume 23 Number 7

From the President NJ6G

KH1/KH7Z is in full swing, and judging by the activity on the MLDXCC-Spots reflector the west coast seems to be doing very well. I've worked them on a couple of different bands and modes and hope to increase that this week. Get them while you can, no telling when there'll be another DXpedition to Baker Island.

Field Day was kind of a bust for me. I had an E Clampus Vitus that weekend but took along the TS-590 and a Buddipole so I could try for some contacts. The location ended up being deep in a tree-lined valley that opened towards Hawaii. Strong signals from all over the states could be heard but they weren't hearing us. Managed an FT8 contact to Oregon, and another ham

worked Hawaii and New Zealand.

On the equipment front, I'm picking up a used KX3 this week so I can operate battery portable. Vina and I just purchased a small travel trailer so perhaps we'll be able to activate a county during CQP, although I think to win this year we may need concerted efforts to rack up points. We'll be discussing the strategies during our upcoming meetings.

Our next meeting is a combined MLDXCC/NCCC occasion at Old Spaghetti Factory in Stockton on July 28th. Hopefully we'll hear from K6MM on the KH1/KH7Z DXpedition. Look for more information including menu selection on the MLDXCC reflector. Hope to see you there!

73, Dennis NJ6G

New Members

Please welcome the following new member!

K6TVT – Randy Keen
Stockton, CA

From the VP NC6R

Did you get an opportunity to participate in Field Day? Eric, K6ODS and I ran a 1E class (solar & genset) from the NC6R station under his call. After 9 hours of operation we had 855 phone contacts in the log. Congrats to K6ODS for work-

ing every state except Vermont! What a great start to WAS.

In looking through the July edition of QST I noted that MLDXCC was listed as a club that had submitted logs for the 10 meter contest. I would be great to raise our finishing position in that contest year. On next page I was surprised to find W6LP (NC6R op) listed as #7 in the US for single op, phone only, non-assisted high power. Who said 10 meters from the West Coast was dead!

I reported a few meetings back that I'd purchased a receive loop from W6LVP. Man does that thing ever work! Using it in conjunction with my 20/40/80 antennas, I now have WAS on those bands using FT8.

Worked any good DX lately? Six meter FT8 has been HOT! Even though I've not had time to construct a proper 6 meter antenna, I found that my 40 meter inverted "V" loads up on 6 with a SWR of only 1.8:1. I've been able to work a surprising number of contacts even with that marginal setup.

How's your DX Marathon numbers looking? Remember even though you've worked a DXCC country before, they count as "brand new" again every year for the Marathon. FT8 contacts count as well!

We've once again added new members to the MLDXCC roll and I'd personally like to welcome each of you. I urge you to become involved in MLDXCC by attending meetings, contributing your contest scores and submitting your DX contacts to Club Log and CQ Marathon under the MLDXCC name. As DX & Contest Club, the competition gets stiffer every year. We can only

Next Meeting

Next meeting is July 28, 2018
12:00 PM – Old Spaghetti Factory in Stockton
2702 W March Ln, Stockton CA 95219
Program TBA, hopefully a presentation on the
KH1/KH7Z Baker Island DXpedition!

We are always on the lookout for new places to hold our meetings, or for volunteers to help make arrangements. Please contact the Activities Chair, Vina K6VNA if you can help out! vina@sign-tek.com

continue as an award-winning club with your support.

73 and Good DX,

Steve / NC6R

From the Secretary K6SZQ

General Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2018

Mountain Mike's Pizza, Martell

Meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by President Dennis Moore, NJ6G. 15 members were in attendance, and 1 guest, who was later voted in as a new member.

We went around the room and each member introduced themselves.

Minutes were published in the last newsletter. Norm Wilson, N6JV moved to accept the minutes as published. Steve Allred, NC6R seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report was also published in the newsletter. Rich Cutler, WC6H moved to accept the report as published. Rick Casey, W6RKC seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Dennis reminded the members that our dues period has been changed to January - December; anyone who is currently paid up is good un-

til December 31st. All Officers must be current dues paying members, and any individual must be paid up in order to receive club awards. Also, you must be a dues paying member to take advantage of the club mailing of QSL cards to the outgoing Bureau, which will begin in October. Details are in the newsletter.

Dennis notes that the individual who had been in charge of sending out QSO cards for the club call is no longer able to do so; Rick Casey, W6RKC offered to handle those going forward.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Recent club/member awards and DX bragging:

- Norm Wilson, N6JV took first place in the 2017 ARRL 160 - SOHP for the Pacific Division.
- Rich Cutler, WC6H took first place in the 2017 November Sweepstakes Phone - SOHP for the Pacific Division
- Dennis Moore, NJ6G took first place in the November Sweepstakes Phone - SOLP for the Pacific Division.
- Steve Allred, NC6R took 3rd Place Out of the Area in the recent 7QP.
- Steve also noted that he had an unusual operating evening a few nights back; on 20 meter phone he worked 56 European stations in 90 minutes.
- Jim Sierferling, WB6BET noted that he worked a VK on 20m SSB mobile while driving over the Rio Vista bridge.
- Norm Wilson, N6JV talked about recent EME exploits on 6m.

Member Reports on Recent Contests/Events:

- Reports from the recent AARRL June VHF contest:
- Jim Sierferling, WB6BET noted that the Lodi club had a group of 5 guys who went to the Lookout at Pardee Dam and made a total of 155 contacts on 4 bands.

- John Lee, K6YK and Dave Harwick, N6LHL went up 88 to Peddler Hill and worked 5 bands for about 4 hours, logging over 100 contacts.
- Randy Keen, K6TVT reported making a few contacts from Stockton on 2m and 70cm.
- There was some confusion on the recent contest as to whether members should give their score to Mother Lode of NCCC. Dennis stated that the two clubs need to get together and update the list of which contests are focus contests for each group.

Member Reports on New Equipment:

- Sue Allred, K6SZQ reported that she has upgraded her license to Extra class.
- Doug Phillips, WE6Z stated that he has a new Alpha 87A amplifier.
- Dennis Moore, NJ6G reported a new Heil headset and a TS590

New Member Applications:

The following was proposed as a new member and was approved by the membership:

- K6TVT - Randy Keen (who was in attendance)

Upcoming Events:

- All Asia CW Contest - June 16th
- ARRL Field Day - June 23rd - 24th
- WRTC 2018 July 14th in Germany. MLDXCC members Rick Tavan, N6XI and Andy Faber, AE6Y will be participating on a team. Dennis noted that both have been big contributors for our club in CQP and Sweepstakes and encouraged everyone to make a contact with them if you hear them.
- CQWW VHF Contest - July 21st
- NAQP RTTY - July 21st
- Pacificon 2018 - October 19th - 21st will be held at the San Ramon Marriott. We will have a table there promoting our club.

Upcoming DXpeditions:

- KH1/KH7X - Baker Island - June 27th - July 6th
- VP6D - Ducie Island will be the end of October

Next Meeting:

July 28th - Joint meeting with NCCC - location to be announced.

Steve Allred, NC6R moved to adjourn the meeting, and Greg Glenn, NR6Q seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m. The program consisted of various area clubs sharing their Field Day plans.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Allred, K6SZQ - Secretary

From the Treasurer K6TLR

June Treasurer’s report:

June 1 Balance	\$2,038.54	
Income:		
	Dues - K6MM	15
	Donation- K6MM	5
	Dues - K6TVT	15
Expense:		
June 30 Balance	\$2,073.54	
Tyler Laursen K6TLR		
MLDXCC Treasurer		

Paying Dues:

Paypal – Send to:MotherLodeClub@gmail.com. use the Friends and Family option.

Cash or Check - Given to a club officer at a meeting. Or mail to K6TLR, 3141 Rushall Ct, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

2018 June VHF Contest Report

Submitted by John Lee, K6YK

John, K6YK and Dave, N6LHL went up to the hills for the June VHF contest. No snow this time, but it was COLD and windy! 3 hours of operating and we packed it in. Photos attached..





2017 DX Marathon Results

Submitted By Bob Hess W1RH

Looks like we scored #5 World and #2 US. This without the participation of some of our very prominent members. I believe John, K6YK, posted the highest score in the club, but I may be wrong. Nevertheless, John is way up there.

Club Scores	
CDR GROUP	12608
RIO DX GROUP	6710
Araucuria DX Group	6691
Northern Illinois DX Association	5338
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	2254
YB Land DX Club	2149
Carolina DX Association	2139
Willamette Valley DX Club	1777
VU Contest Group	1512
Vytautas Magnus University Radio Club	1216
Metro DX Club	1193
East Tennessee DX Association	1090
RADIO CLUB VENEZOLANO	1008
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	994
Salt City DX Association	888
Southern California DX Club	871
Society of Midwest Contesters	841
Bahia Dx Group	762
Florida Contest Group	707

Regionalis Radios Sportklub Puspokladany	699
ARI	696
CABREUVA DX	659
GPDY-PORTUGUESE DX GROUP	591
Cantareira DX Group	585
INDIOS DX TEAM	570
Bavarian Contest Club	565
ARRL	551
Lone Star DX Association	542
CMDXGroup	541
Belarus Contest Club	524
Potomac Valley Radio Club	496
LU Contest Group	486
NERG	480
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	447
EA CONTEST CLUB	446
Rhein Ruhr DX Association	431
URE	422
SP DX Club	380
North Coast Contesters	352
CW OPERATORS' CLUB	318
Southern California Contest Club	312
Clipperton DX Club	311
RUSSIAN CW CLUB	297
Chiltern DX Club	292
Croatian Contest Club	292
CCO	290
JA0-DX-GANG	288
Minnesota Wireless Association	281
Redwood Empire DX Association	277
HA DX Club	274
CADXA	273
AGDX- Arabian Gulf DX Group	270
Maritime Contest Club	249
Cape Fear Am Raido Soc.	231
Mile High DX Association	230
Single Fighter DX Group	229
West Valley ARC	229
WNYDXA	229
Ashe County Amateur Radio Club	223
TCSWAT	223
Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation	222
OK QRP KLUB	210
Amateur Radio Victoria	207
VKCC	204

Nixa Amateur Radio Club	195
GUARA DX GROUP	188
Southwest OH DX Assoiation	187
RZS Amateur Radio Club	185
YV CONTEST GROUP	184
Ham Society of the Philippines	181
WATERLAND	180
YO DX CLUB	179
West Rand ARC	178
Northeast Wisconsin DX Asociation	175
WACOM	175
DUPAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	170
The NN6NN Digital Team	169
Kentucky Contest Group (KCG)	167
Allegheny Valley Radio Club	165
Oklahoma DX Association	164
Chilean Pacific DX Group	162
FRC	161
Lincoln Amateur Radio Club	158
Red Mule DX Club	154
Southeastern DX Club	144
ECCCC	133
SOUTH CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION	130
DARC	129
MUTUM DX GROUP	127
Radio Club Valencia A.C.	127
ACG	123
DXXE	122
CRASMO	119
CCS	117
Secunda Amateur Radio Club	93
trac izmir	87
Philippine Amateur Radio League Inc.	82

Great job MLDXCC! – Dennis NJ6G

ARRL News

Baker Island KH1/KH7Z DXpedition “Humming;” Shutdown Set for July 6
07/02/2018

Word from the [Baker Island KH1/KH7Z](#) DXpedition team is that “things are humming on Baker Island.” But, because of the tides, the DXpedition, which has logged more than 40,000 contacts, has announced that it will cease operation on July 6 — a day sooner than projected — and depart the following day. Station teardown will start late on July 4. Since its arrival, the team has encountered antenna-damaging storms, satellite phone failures, and extreme heat, but everything now has been restored to working order.

“We are all happily working radio shifts handing

Dits and Dahs

Sue Allred K6SZQ has upgraded to Amateur Extra! Great Job Sue!

Steve picked up KH1/KH7Z for his 275th DX! Way to go Steve, working hard at 300!

Do you have something you'd like to see here in Dits and Dahs? License upgrade? Call sign change? New equipment? Send it to the editor!

out ATNOs [all-time new ones] and making memories that will remain with us forever,” the DXpedition said in an update over the weekend.

KH1/KH7Z will shift its 30-meter frequency to 10.107 MHz to avoid European interference, and it will try “normal” FT8 mode on 1.840 on July 3 at 0900 UTC for the US east coast. If successful, the DXpedition will remain on 160 through the night for eastern Europe.

The DXpedition has said that “fully half” of all FT8 callers are not using the correct software. Callers must use *WSJT-X* version 1.9.1, go into

advanced settings, choose “Hound” mode, and sync their computer’s clock. DXpedition Pilot Lee Finkel, KY7M, has prepared a “[Quick Start Guide](#)” (attached below) for working KH1/KH7Z that includes more details. KH1/KH7Z hopes to activate FT8 on 60 meters on July 4.

All eight stations are on the air, covering 160 through 6 meters. The KH1/KH7Z [frequency plan](#) is on the DXpedition website. *DXpedition operators will be operating split. Please do not call on the DX station’s transmitting frequency!*

Online Fund-Raising Hoax Targeting Some ARRL Members

07/02/2018

A poorly worded online solicitation seeking donations to support medical costs for an ill youngster is not from ARRL and is a scam! Some members have reported receiving an email with the subject line “Help Support

Dawn,” dated on or about June 30, stating that “Dawn” is the critically ill son of an ARRL member and requires urgent surgery.

“ARRL would never send an unsigned email like this to our members,” said ARRL CEO Barry Shelley, N1VXY. “This is clearly a hoax, and we would never solicit for private causes in this fashion. To prey on the willingness of our members to help other hams in need, is particularly despicable.”

The attempt to solicit funds through GoFundMe and PayPal may be aimed at collecting personal and credit card information. ARRL members are urged not to repost, forward, or respond to this request.

Radio Amateur in Japan Completes Worked All States on 6 Meters

07/02/2018

Tac Hirama, JA7QVI, has completed all requirements for the Worked All States (WAS) award on 6 meters. New Jersey was the last state he needed to work, and he managed a moonbounce (EME) contact as well as a conventional ionospheric contact.

It’s quite possible that JA7QVI is the first radio amateur to earn WAS on 6 meters from Japan, although that cannot be confirmed. Completing WAS on 6 meters was a major goal for him, Hirama said, and an Earth-Moon-Earth contact with Andy Blank, N2NT, on June 17 clinched the deal. He’d been working on achieving WAS on 6 meters since 1977.

JA7QVI now has accomplished WAS on 10 bands, 160 through 6 meters.

2018 MLDXCC Meeting Dates

January 27

February - None

March 10

April - none (Visalia)

May 12 – *Canceled*

June 16

July 28

Aug 25

Sep 15

October 13

November 10

December - None

Dates are arranged to accommodate major contest dates. Meeting dates are subject to change. MLDXCC traditionally holds a mid-year combined meeting with NCCC.

Youth Team to be On the Air from Market Reef

06/27/2018

A team of young radio amateurs will be on the air from Market Reef Lighthouse as OJ0C, from July 21 until July 28 and again from August 18 until August 25. The lighthouse is nearly at sea level, and waves have been known to cover the entire reef.

The Finnish Lighthouse Society (FLS) and the Amateur Radio League of Finland (SRAL) in conjunction with OH-DX-Foundation (OHDXF) and DX University (DXU) have organized the first-ever International Youth at Sea (IYAS) cultural exchange-based radio activity, which could become a regular annual event. The 2018 youth team members are Nuuti, OH1UBO; Elias, OH2EP; Otava, OH3OT; Mikael, OH3UAF; Pieter, ON3DI; Florian, OE3FTA, and Ilie, YO3IMD — all 16 to 25 years old.

The young operators will be participating in daily workshops of safety and survival at sea in the remote lighthouse. In addition, they will become familiar with the latest digital modes and, most important, learning how operating the radio efficiently — providing OJ0C contacts and handling pileups. Their instructors are Martti, OH2BH; Henri, OH3JR, and Pasi, OH3WS. QSL OJ0C via OH3JR.

Assigning Kosovo Z6 Call Signs “Unauthorized and Illegal,” ITU Secretary-General Says

06/18/2018

Kosovo, which won its battle to become a DXCC entity earlier this year, appears to have another fight on its hands. International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Secretary-General Houlin Zhao has determined that the Z6 call sign prefix was never allocated to Kosovo. The Secretary-General issued his finding in the wake of a March 16 inquiry from Serbia, from which Kosovo declared independence 10 years ago, the last piece of the former Yugoslavia to do so. Serbia has continued to reject Kosovo’s secession.

“ITU has not allocated call sign series Z6 to any of its member states,” Houlin Zhou said. “Consequently, the utilization of call signs series Z6 by any entity without a formal allocation and consent of the ITU represents an unauthorized and illegal usage of this international numbering resource.”

Kosovo is not an ITU member state and is therefore not eligible to receive a call sign block allocation from the ITU.

Houlin Zhou also informed the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) that the ITU had not authorized use of the Z6 prefix, and he asked the IARU not to include Z6-prefix call signs on its website, where they have appeared since the 2015 admission of Shoqata e Radio Amatoreve te Kosoves (SHRAK) as an IARU member-society. An ITU sector member, the IARU complied with the request and advised SHRAK.

Kosovo joins a short list of DXCC entities where radio amateurs use “unofficial” call sign prefixes. The list also includes Western Sahara (S0) and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (1A).

Earlier this year, in Mission Goodwill Kosovo, the IARU member-society SHRAK’s headquarters station Z60A mounted a massive special event operation to celebrate Kosovo’s addition to the DXCC List, as well as its 10th anniversary of independence.

In July 2010, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) found that Kosovo’s declaration of independence from Serbia did not violate international law. Relations between the two nations have become less hostile in recent years, but Serbia likely would oppose any move on Kosovo’s part to normalize the Z6 call sign block with the ITU.

Avenues to resolve the call sign prefix issue for Kosovo all are fraught with possible roadblocks. In addition to possible action at World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 — which could run into Serbian opposition — Kosovo’s telecommunications regulator could decide to assign call signs from a block the ITU is not using.

MLDXCC – Outgoing ARRL Bureau

The Mother Lode DX/Contest Club will provide Outgoing QSL Bureau services to paid club members. The policy is as follows:

The club will cover packaging, shipping, and the \$7.00 ARRL fee. Members will be responsi-

Area Clubs

Northern California Contest Club -

<https://www.nccc.cc>

Lodi Amateur Radio Club - <http://www.lodiarc.org>

Stockton Delta Amateur Radio Club -

<http://www.w6sf.org>

Pizza Lovers 259 - <https://www.pl259.org>

El Dorado Amateur Radio Club - <http://edcarc.net>

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club -

<http://www.w6ek.org>

Redwood Empire DX Association -

<http://www.redxa.com>

Please contact the editor to have your club listed here!

ble for the \$1.15 per ounce fee, payable to the club. A scale will be provided at the designated meetings to weigh the cards.

Twice per year, at the March and October meetings, members will bring their outgoing cards (or have delivered by another club member) to the meeting for collection and collating.

All regulations set forth by the ARRL must be met, including:

- Members must be ARRL members to use outgoing bureau.
- Must provide proof of membership (QST mailing label, ARRL membership card)

- Cards need to be sorted according to ARRL requirements when brought to club.

I would anticipate that the after-meeting program at those meetings would be dedicated to weighing, merging the cards, and making sure the paperwork is in order.

For more information regarding the ARRL Outgoing Bureau, please visit <http://www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service>

Tube of the Month N6JV

NL-11826

I have been collecting transmitting tubes for many years and I can't remember ever buying a new tube at full price. Like most hams, I am a "picker" and am always looking for something new for my collection or for use in one of my amplifiers. Many of us go to swap meets and look for that fantastic deal. There is a problem with transmitting tubes due to the confusing designations with which they are marked. If someone offered you a good, tested SE-3945 for \$5, would you take it? That tube is also called the 38145 or the VT-43. The "SE" means Steam Engineering for the Navy who also marked them 38145. The Signal Corps used the VT-43 designation. The commercial number is the 845 and a good tested tube may be worth \$2000. A nice profit. You can see the need for a good data base and a better memory. I got my used SE-3945 for the \$5.

An on-line advertisement for three, new, NL-11826 tubes caught my eye some years ago. The photo was poor and there was little or no in-

formation. All I could find is that it was a tube made for pulse duty. NL is a prefix used by Richardson Electronics after they purchased some tube manufacturing facilities. My "low ball" bid was successful and I had the tubes in a week. One tube was bad and was added to the type collection, but the other tubes seemed to be good. I believed them to be a pulse variant of the 3-500Z triode. They were stored for possible use in the future. This winter, my 20 meter amplifier started to lose power as the tubes had several years of contest and DX use and needed to be replaced. I remembered the NL-11826 tubes and had always wanted to try them in an amplifier. The amp was opened up and the bias adjusted for 3-500Z tubes. When I turned the amplifier on and hit the key, the power meter



hit the stop. I backed off on the drive for 1500 watts output. Pulse tubes are often standard tubes that have been processed to handle very high voltages. In a ham amplifier they work just fine. I keep looking for more of these tubes, but so far no luck. I could use a dozen.

Visit the museum at N6JV.com

Norm N6JV

MLDXCC Website up-date

Norm, N6JV would like to up-date the “member's stations” section of our website. Many of the pics are old and outdated, and many of us have moved. So please send Norm a photo of your smiley face at your station, as well a photo of your antenna system. Let's get our website current.

ARRL Awards Checkers

Ken Anderson, K6TA
(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

Rick Samoian, W6SR
(DXCC, WAS, VUCC, 160M)

Dennis King, N6KD
(WAS, VUCC)

The NOAA Solar Update

Click the link below to display the latest NOAA solar predictions.

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/weekly-highlights-and-27-day-forecast>

UPCOMING Events

IARU HF World Championship – July 14

WRTC 2018 – July 14

CQ WW VHF Contest – July 21

North American QSO Party – RTTY – July 21

RSGB IOTA Contest – July 28

For the latest contest info. click on the following link:

<http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

UPCOMING DX and Dxpeditions

Click the link below to display upcoming Dxpeditons.

<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

Classifieds

Members are requested to review their classified ads each month for accuracy and to resubmit their ads or confirm their desire to keep it running in the next issue.

Dennis NJ6G has the following items for sale:

Astron RS-50 Power Supply - \$95 OBO

M2 RC2800 Rotator Controller - \$225

SDRplay RSP1 – New in box - \$80

Dennis, NJ6G dennis@mail4life.net

Need QSL cards, business cards, club banners?

Contact Vina K6VNA vina@sign-tek.com

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The MLDXCC NEWSLETTER

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